

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (presently amended) A vacuum holding device (1) with apparatus for producing a vacuum, wherein

- the vacuum holding device (1) and the apparatus for producing a vacuum are constructed in two parts and ~~can be detached and~~ are detachable connected substantially gastight by positioning against each other,

wherein the vacuum holding device has comprises:


- a vacuum chamber (5) which is open in the direction of a contact surface (14),
- an outwardly directed opening as the end of a connection from the vacuum chamber to an external environment (7),
- a valve (9) which ensures gastight closing and opening of the connection between the vacuum chamber (5) and the external environment (7)
- means for producing a detachable substantially gastight coupling between ~~an~~ the outwardly directed opening and a the apparatus ~~device~~ to produce a vacuum,
- the vacuum holding device (1) comprises a seal (15) which seals the vacuum chamber gastight against the contact surface (14) towards the outside,

wherein the apparatus for producing a vacuum comprises

- a suction piston and a piston suction pipe (13) ~~which has an~~ wherein the suction pipe has a first opening at the beginning (24) of the suction path (26) and with suction piston (28) and wherein
- a second opening at the end of the suction path (26) ~~and opening (26)~~ which is fully passable by the suction piston (28) ~~is provided~~ so that when the second

opening is fully passed ~~in one go~~ by the suction piston ambient air penetrates in one stroke into the piston suction pipe (13).

Claim 2 (currently amended) The vacuum holding device (1) according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the valve (9) is constructed as a form selected from the group consisting of substantially conical, spherical and hemispherical.

 **Claim 3** (currently amended) The vacuum holding device (1) according to claim 1 wherein the connection between the vacuum chamber (5) and the external environment has a form selected from the group consisting of conical, spherical and hemispherical bearing surface (8) to accommodate the valve (9).

Claim 4 (currently amended) The vacuum holding device (1) according to claim 1 wherein at least in the regions in contact with the bearing surface (8), the valve (9) consists of a rubber elastic material.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The vacuum holding device (1) according to claim 1 wherein one part of the means for producing a detachable, substantially gastight coupling from an upwardly directed opening is a surface.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The vacuum holding device (1) according to claim 1 wherein the detachable, substantially gastight coupling is formed by a rubber seal between the surface and attachment of the device to produce a vacuum.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The vacuum holding device (1) according to claim 1 wherein the surface (12) for attaching the device to produce a vacuum is directed to the contact surface (14) of the vacuum holding device (1).

Claim 8 (currently amended) The vacuum holding device (1) according to claim 1 wherein the vacuum holding device (1) has a holding receptacle for an equipment holder.

Claim 9 (currently amended) A method for securing a vacuum holding device (1) ~~by means of~~ with an apparatus for producing a vacuum according to claim 1 to a contact surface (14) comprising:

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- positioning the vacuum holding device (1) on a contact surface (14),
 - producing a detachable, substantially gastight coupling between the outwardly directed opening of the vacuum holding device (1) and a piston suction pipe (13),
 - producing a vacuum in a vacuum chamber (5) by withdrawing a suction piston (28) from the piston suction pipe (13) until the suction piston (28) passes an upper opening (26) and
 - removing the apparatus for producing a vacuum.

Claim 10 (currently amended) A vacuum holding device (1), wherein the vacuum holding device has:

- a vacuum chamber (5) which is open in the direction of the contact surface (14),

- an opening as the end of a connection between the vacuum chamber and the external environment (7),
- a valve (9) which ensures gastight closing and opening of the connection between the vacuum chamber (5) and the external environment (7) and
- means for producing a detachable substantially gastight coupling between the outwardly directed opening and an apparatus for producing a vacuum,
- the valve (9) is constructed as a form selected from the group consisting of substantially conical, spherical or hemispherical and
- the connection between the vacuum chamber (5) and the external environment has a form selected from the group consisting of conical, spherical and hemispherical bearing surface (8) to accommodate the valve (9),
- the vacuum holding device has a seal (15) which closes the vacuum chamber gastight towards the outside against the contact surface (14) and
- the valve (9) extends as a strip or rod with a support.

Claim 11 (currently amended) The vacuum holding device (1) according to Claim 10, wherein at the end of the strip or rod there is at least one support in the form of at least one member of the group consisting of one pin and wedge.

Claim 12 (currently amended) The vacuum holding device (1) according to claim 10 wherein the extension of the valve (9) is elastic to hold the valve in the bearing surface.

Claim 13 (currently amended) The vacuum holding device ~~(1)~~ according to claim 10
wherein the seal ~~(15)~~ is a flat seal made of elastic material.

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Claim 14 (currently amended) The vacuum holding device ~~(1)~~ according to claim 1
wherein the seal ~~(15)~~ is a flat seal made of an elastic material.

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